

David's talk was well prepared and presented, supported by an effective PowerPoint presentation. He started by showing an image of a portion of the night sky from the Hubble Telescope, and relating it to the immense size of the universe in space and time, emphasizing the implications of the existence of billions of galaxies containing billions of stars, for humanity.

David went on to discuss several topical areas including: Two paths to atheism, labels, the history of atheism, a society of atheists, music/poetry/humor, and secular rights. The two paths to atheism being a secular upbringing, and a religious upbringing that eventually leads to doubt and an eventual falling away from religion. David defined and discussed five labels closely associated with the atheistic perspective: "atheism", "agnosticism", "freethinker", "humanism", and "Skepticism". He gave brief overview of the history of atheism from Pygmy tribes in Africa, to Jainism and Buddhism, to the Greek Philosophers, Muslim philosophy, the Enlightenment, modern philosophers such as Marx and Nietzsche, and current writers like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens. He presented an overview of the society of atheists in the US. Pointing out that 1 in 10 claim to have no belief, 3 in 10 between 18-29 years old are not affiliated with any religion, 4 in 10 Californians are not affiliated, and 7 in 10 Jews think an atheist can still be a Jew. As examples of Atheistic entertainment, David presented portions of performances by an atheist songstress, rapper, and poet.

He then turned to Secular rights and concerns, pointing out that although atheism is not a religion, courts have decided that atheism is considered a religion only in the sense that atheists have the same civil rights as do the religious.

He concluded by discussing the various groups that are part of the Sacramento Coalition of Reason, directing the attendees to the <http://sacramentocor.org/> web page.

David's lecture was cordial, effective, and well received by the 50 or so students and faculty who attended. We are fortunate to have someone like Dave who can present our views in a positive light. This fall Kaeliegh Pontif will be transferring to Sacramento State University to work toward an environment science degree. I hope we can encourage her to stay involved with the Secular Students Alliance at Sacramento State.



When you donate blood...

Please consider donating blood at Sacramento's BloodSource, and use AOF BloodSource ID# **4857** when you do it. Many BloodSource Donation Centers exist – find them listed at <http://www.bloodsource.org/Locations>. AOF gets no perks when members donate, but it saves lives, and is good for public relations. And what is more purely, sweetly Humanistic than donating blood?

Support the Reason Center

Reason Center rocks! It opened its doors in July 2014 and continues to pick up speed. "RC" has hosted hundreds of freethought-friendly events, and currently has twelve partner organizations.

Its mission: to support a social and intellectual community for freethinkers, contribute to society through education and community service, advance the civic understanding and acceptance of freethinkers, uphold the separation of religion and government, and foster fun.

But will it continue? Reason Center needs ongoing support from members and donors. Please become a Reason Center member, or even make a one-time donation. You'll feel good. You'll feel *great*. Visit the website, ReasonCenter.org, to see how to help.



No More "In God We Trust"

Remember "No More IGWT"? Since July 2015 this project has operated in the background, quietly gathering funds to support renewed litigative efforts by Dr. Mike Newdow to remove religious references from U.S. currency and to restore original legal neutrality toward faith. As James Madison said, "Every new & successful example therefore of a perfect separation between ecclesiastical and civil matters, is of importance. And I have no doubt that every new example, will

succeed, as every past one has done, in shewing that religion & Govt. will both exist in greater purity, the less they are mixed together." (Letter to Edward Livingston, 10 July 1822 - Writings 9:100-103)



The Fund now stands at nearly \$4600. If you wish to support it, visit <http://nomoreiqwt.com/>, or drop a donation to AOF at PO Box 15182, Sacramento, CA 95851. Donations large or small are appreciated, and tax deductible of course!

Not a member of Atheists and Other Freethinkers? We have a fix for that!

AOF is a nifty 501(c)(3) non-profit association, FEIN 68-0325762. General Meetings are free and open to all. AOF also hosts civic service projects, dinners, movie outings, parties! To see what awaits, visit the website, www.aofonline.org; or contact AOF at our 24/7 voice-mail: 916-447-3589; or write to PO Box 15182, Sacramento, CA 95851-0182. But pigeon messages will be eaten.

Subscription / Membership Form

Mail to: AOF, PO Box 15182, Sacramento CA 95851-0182 (Attn: Membership)

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E-mail is required for newsletter delivery.

Questions, concerns? Call AOF, 916-304-3796.

Your Membership Level (annual, please circle):

Patron (\$50) Family (\$30) Individual (\$20) Low-income (\$10)

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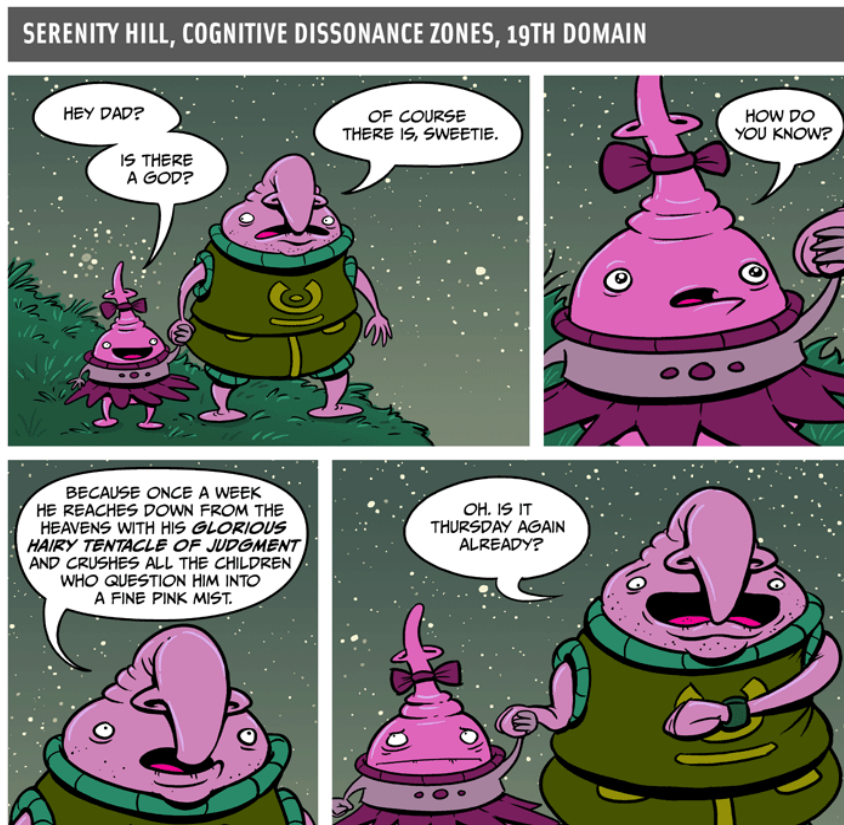
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Please check here if you DO want to be an AOF Activist (e-mail address required).

AOF is a 501(c)(3) Educational Association, EIN 68-0325762. Dues & Donations are tax-deductible as permitted by law. Non-members may receive the AOF Newsletter for free on request (email only).

AOF President: Brad Clark. Vice-president: Mynga Futrell. Yr 'umble Editor: Fran Evanisko.

"The purpose of Atheists and Other Freethinkers (AOF) is to promote civic understanding of atheism and the acceptance of atheists in our community. Through educational programs, projects, and publications, AOF will extend secular perspectives, including the separation of religion and government and the right to think and speak freely on these perspectives." There, we said it!



Thanks to <http://amultiverse.com/>